THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, 6th January 1954.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Government Estate, Mount Road, at nine of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUGAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

(Starred questions postponed from the list for 5th January 1954.)

Recognition of the North Malabar P.C.C. Societies Federation.

* 297-A *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state whether the Government have received recently any memorandum from P.C.C. Societies of North Malabar, to recognize the North Malabar P.C.C. Societies Federation, and if so, what action has been taken?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO:—"A memorandum from the representatives of North Malabar P.C.C. Societies Federation was received by the Government in July 1953. After examination, the President of the Federation was informed that there was no sufficient reason to accord recognition to the Federation."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP:—"In view of the fact that after decontrol, the existence of these societies has become very precarious and the North Malabar Societies have to meet common problems, may I know why this Government could not accord sanction to this proposal?"

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO:—"The very reason mentioned by the hon. Member is the reason why the Government do not agree to the formation of the federation. As a result of decontrol, many of these societies, which used to thrive very well with their procurement and distribution of foodgrains, lost their chief business and as many as 38 societies have been removed from the work of distribution. The Civil Supplies Department is supervising the work of the P.C.C. Societies. We therefore felt that in addition to the supervision by the Civil Supplies Department, another supervision by the Federation would amount to dual control which at the present moment is not advisable. Further if these societies are to come under the Federation, I am advised that they should be re-registered as such."

SRI KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE: Will the Government consider the appointment of a senior officer of the Co-operative Department to enquire into the matter and make suggestions to reorganize these P.C.C. Societies so that they may work on a more profitable basis?

The Hon. Dr. U. KRISHNA RAO:—"The present officer there is a senior officer and we have acted according to his advice. If the hon. Member will give me any specific suggestion for improvement, I shall consider it."

Sri V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR:—"The Hon. Minister has been pleased to point out that there were difficulties facing these co-operative societies consequent upon decontrol and non-procurement in that area. Precisely for the reason that there were difficulties for the various institutions, it was thought that those difficulties and disabilities could be removed by having an organizational unit and the federation has been formed. The formation of the federation is not unconstitutional and improper and freedom of association is guaranteed to this entity. That being so, may I know what stands in the way of the Government not recognizing this association which will enable the societies to ventilate their grievances and seek redress in an organisational form?"

The Hon. Dr. U. KRISHNA RAO:—"They already possess the right of putting their grievances and seeking redress. They can even now represent their grievances to the Government. I may inform the hon. Member that the formation of the federation will not in any way increase the efficiency of the societies. Therefore I feel that that is one of the reasons why the Government think that it is not necessary to form the federation. The second likely reason—I only imagine this—is that their already depleted funds would be depleted still further by their having to pay travelling allowance to the various members who will form the office bearers of the federation."

Sri K. VINAYAKAM:—"May I know what are the qualifications prescribed for recognizing these federations and whether this particular federation lacks those qualifications?"

The Hon. Dr. U. KRISHNA RAO:—"The Government think that a federation is not necessary. There is no specific qualification prescribed for the formation or recognition of a federation."

Sri M. NARAYANA KURUP:—"Is it the policy of the Government to help these societies in their difficulties or to exploit those difficulties and suppress them?"

The Hon. Dr. U. KRISHNA RAO:—"It is the duty of the Government to help these societies, but the Government are firmly convinced that the formation of the federation is not the only method of helping them in their difficulties. The real help should be to increase the scope of their activities, to see that there was no defalcation and to see that they got more foodgrains for distribution. That would be a better method of helping these institutions instead of forming a federation which will involve increased expenditure and will not result in increased efficiency in their working."